

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides investment in our Nation's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, public transit, housing and broadband to save or create jobs for American workers and enhance economic growth.

With enabling legislation signed into law, Michigan prepares to receive federal stimulus funding. Public Act 3 of 2009 was signed into law for Michigan's stimulus projects to be included and ensure projects are obligated accordingly.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been working cooperatively with the Federal Highway Administration to receive and interpret the many requirements of the ARRA. Cooperatively with our Metropolitan Planning Organization and our Rural Task Force, the MDOT and local road agencies can now begin the process of investing \$873 million from the ARRA to advance "shovel ready" projects such as road resurfacing, rehabilitation and widening, bridge

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
- 1** Managing Director's Message
- 2** The Life of a Pothole
- 3** Asset Management for Elected Officials
- 3** 43rd Street Project, Climax Township
- 4** Centennial Perspective

Managing Director's Message

During spring break, I had the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. and thought of our history and the struggles and contributions of our many public servants and leaders. During these challenging economic conditions, as a governmental agency, it is important we strive to build the public's trust in our decision making.

At KCRC, we continue to invest in staff training, public education, customer service, new products and procedures for efficiency improvement. We have an aggressive list of goals annually our team works hard to achieve, therefore providing opportunities for us to cost effectively serve the public. We review products and procedures and look to what is working and what may need updating. As new ideas are attempted, and measured over time, if they do not provide improved results, we are not afraid to say it may be best to adjust once again. We will continue to learn and adjust to the world around us.

To best serve our citizens, those that visit or choose to make Kalamazoo County their home, we must continue to focus on progress and public service. We are striving to provide you the positive results you will recognize, even in these challenging economic conditions.

As we begin our 2009 construction season, we are excited for another year of infrastructure improvements throughout Kalamazoo County. Added to 2009 local and primary preventative maintenance operations, and capital improvement projects, are the identified American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects. Together these improvements will provide for progress and improvement in our infrastructure. We are conscious of our limited funding and of being good stewards for which history will measure.

As I visited the Jefferson Memorial in Washington D.C., I was reminded by the words of Thomas Jefferson and the historical perception of change: "...I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times..."

Sincerely,

Joanna I. Johnson
Managing Director

The Life of a Pothole

rehabilitation and transportation enhancement projects. \$635.4 million will be directed to State trunkline projects, \$211.8 million to local agencies projects and \$25.8 million to rural and intercity bus capital projects. The Kalamazoo County Road Commission has identified projects that will receive ARRA funding anticipated of over \$3 million. Projects were selected in conjunction with ARRA guidelines and identified as priority projects in our Kalamazoo County Road Commission 2009 – 2013 Capital Improvement plan. The funds can only be used on roads eligible for federal funding, which is a limited portion of the county primary road network. ARRA provides for 100% of construction costs up to a capped funding limit.

ARRA Funded Projects

S Avenue – S Sprinkle to 29th Street \$1,000,000
(Urban)

8th Street – Q Avenue to R Avenue \$520,000
(Urban)

12th Street – C Avenue to D Avenue \$554,676
(Rural)

Kalamazoo River Valley Trail \$1,766,125
(Enhancement)

The ARRA funding will assist in the completion of these priority projects; however this funding does not solve the long term issues related to infrastructure funding. Federal funding, including the additional stimulus funds, cannot be used to defray the costs of routine maintenance of the road system, including snow removal.

The Federal Highway Administration has launched an ARRA website at: www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery or the www.michigan.gov/recovery website is also available for review.

A pothole is like a tooth cavity. Left untreated, it gets more decayed, more painful, takes more time and money to care for, and sometimes you end up having to urgently, call for a specialist.

Potholes occur when snow and ice melt as part of Michigan’s seasonal freeze thaw cycle. The resulting water then seeps beneath the pavement through cracks caused by the wear and tear of traffic. As the temperatures cool to freezing at night, the water becomes ice and expands below the pavement, forcing the pavement to rise. As the shallow divot occurs under the surface, the pavement breaks forming a pothole.

Unfortunately, as long as there are roads and change of seasons in Michigan, there will be potholes. And that means pothole patching. The KCRC uses cold patch material which is the best alternative in cold or wet weather and hot mix asphalt. We work hard all spring to ensure that holes are patched and roads are safe for travel. We also rely on our preservation treatments to assist in extending pavement life. These treatments include crack sealing, patching, chip sealing and thin hot mix asphalt overlays.

Remember, if you see our KCRC crews patching potholes – slow down and please be careful!

Contact Us:

We are committed to providing a safe and convenient road system for our county motorists. As our customers and as residents of Kalamazoo County you are also entitled to excellent service from us at all times.

To this end, we aim to provide answers to your service requests. To make sure our service to you is prompt and courteous we strive to continually improve our methods of contact. Office hours are 7:30am – 4pm, Monday through Friday, 269-381-3171.

Our services on the web can be found at www.kalamazooountyroads.com and are designed to keep you updated on the news and information from our agency. You can contact us via email at info@krcr-roads.com.

Asset Management for Elected Officials Workshop

On March 31st the KCRC coordinated with the Michigan Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) to host a workshop on the *Introduction to Transportation Asset Management for Elected Officials* in Kalamazoo County. During the workshop, Bobbi Welke, Engineer/Manager of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Southwest Region presented on the asset management program utilized by MDOT. John Kiefer of LTAP presented to County Road Commissioners, County Commissioners, City and Village Council Members, Township Boards, along with management staff from these agencies. The objective of the workshop was to familiarize the audience with the principles of transportation asset management, why it is important for them, how they can benefit, and the process of implementation.



Educational Opportunities Planned at KCRC:

To provide educational opportunities for local officials we have planned the following presentation at KCRC at NO COST in 2009.

June 25, 2009 9:00am – 10:30am

Setting Realistic Speed Limits

Please contact Debbie Hill at KCRC to register at 269-381-3170 extension 203.

We hope to schedule “What Elected Officials Need to Know about Traffic Safety” for the fall – stay tuned!

43rd Street, R Avenue to Q Avenue Climax Township Project Begins



Federal and State funding was designated for this roadway through the Rural Task Force. The project was selected by a group of local representatives including Township Officials, Road Commission, and Transit. The project was also impacted by citizen input that was gained throughout the design process.

The 43rd Street road project will begin at R Avenue, and will continue north one mile to Q Avenue. The intersection of 43rd Street at Q Avenue will be reconstructed including 250 feet of Q Avenue east of 43rd Street. The project began in April and completion is scheduled for mid-July 2009.

The roadway will be closed to through traffic during the project. Traffic will be detoured during the project to R Avenue to 36th Street, to MN Avenue.

Project Description

Within the project limits, the existing roadway will be crushed and shaped. The roadway will be reconstructed with two 11 foot traffic lanes, 3 foot paved shoulders, and 3 foot gravel shoulders along the entire length of the project. The roadway will be widened to accommodate the new shoulder width. Driveway endings will be replaced in kind to match the edge of the new pavement. The culvert of the Eldred Consolidated Drain (County Drain) will be replaced which will limit through project access for a couple of days. Previously, the intersection at Q Avenue featured a wider radius curve for the 43rd Street north to Q Avenue east movement. The intersection will be reconstructed and replaced with an intersection conforming to current standards. The new intersection will be controlled with a four-way stop.

The construction project is funded with \$680,000 Federal Surface Transportation and \$200,000 State All Season Road Program funds.

Centennial Perspective

In 1909, Wayne County built the first mile of rural concrete highway in the world on Woodward Avenue between Six and Seven Mile Road in Detroit. From far and near, road builders came to see how concrete stood up under the heavy traffic of that period. The success of this experiment speeded the development of modern automobile highways. It cost \$13,537, including \$1,000 in state aid.

1909 Board of County Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County:

W.M. Bryant Byron S. Camey Charles Clark

Board of Kalamazoo County Road Commissioners:

To better serve our County and local officials, each Road Commissioner has also been assigned as a liaison to various townships we serve as follows:

Jeffrie Maddox – **Chairman**; Comstock, Cooper, Ross
Kent McCauley – **Vice Chairman**; Brady, Climax, Pavilion
Dennis Berkebile – Charleston, Schoolcraft, Texas
Dan Moyle – Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland
Ken Oscarson - Kalamazoo, Prairie Ronde, Wakeshma

Kalamazoo County Road Commission
3801 E. Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49001